

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of presenting information on a space-constrained display of a
2 portable device, the method comprising:
3 associating a first indication on the display with a user-defined external state;
4 establishing a user-defined operation for monitoring the user-defined external
5 state; and
6 updating the first indication on the display in accordance with the monitored
7 user-defined external state in response to an information encoding
8 thereof received via a telecommunications network.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-defined external state is one of:
2 a weather or environmental state;
3 a system or information status state; and
4 a news or sports information state.

1 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 performing the established user-defined operation using a networked
3 computational service remote from the portable device; and
4 supplying the information encoding in correspondence with a result of the
5 performed user-defined operation.

1 4. The method of claim 3,
2 wherein the supplying includes pushing the information encoding to the
3 portable device via the telecommunications network.

1 5. The method of claim 3,
2 wherein the supplying includes supplying the information encoding to the
3 portable device via the telecommunications network in response to a
4 request therefor from the portable device.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

retrieving from a networked computational service remote from the portable device, an information encoding in correspondence with a result of the performed user-defined operation.

7. The method of claim 1,
wherein the user-defined external state is selected from amongst a predetermined set of external states available for monitoring.

8. The method of claim 1,
wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation includes selecting from amongst a predetermined set of at least partially-predefined queries.

9. The method of claim 1,
wherein the associating of the first indication with the user-defined external state is performed without use of the portable device.

10. The method of claim 1,
wherein the establishing of the user-defined operation is performed without use of the portable device.

11. The method of claim 1,
wherein either or both of the associating of the first indication with the user-defined external state and the establishing of the user-defined operation are performed via the portable device.

12. The method of claim 1,
wherein the user-defined operation includes a query executable at a networked computational service remote from the portable device.

13. The method of claim 1,
wherein in the first indication is a graphical indication.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

associating a second indication with the user-defined external state, the second indication providing textual description rendered in response to selection, at the portable device, of the first indication.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof, the first indication corresponding to at least one of the plural visual indications.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the plural visual indications exhibit at least two indication states each.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the display device includes a two-dimensional array of display elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the portable device includes one or more of:

- a phone;
- a personal digital assistant;
- a pager;
- a palm- or handheld-computer;
- a digital media player;
- a communications-enabled portable device; and
- a WAP- or iMode-enabled portable device.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunications network transmission and routing facilities include one or more of:

- a wireless voice network;
- a wireless data network;
- a packet-switched data network;
- an internet or intranet;

a local- or wide-area network; and
a public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

20. A portable device comprising:
a space-constrained display including a two-dimensional array of display elements suitable for simultaneously presenting plural visual indications displaced throughout at least a portion thereof; and
a communications interface to a telecommunications network, the communications interface coupled to the space-constrained display and allowing the portable device to receive information encoding one or more external states and to update respective ones of the visual indications based on respective user-defined associations with the external states.

21. The portable device of claim 20,
wherein the external states are user selected and include one or more of weather status, environmental status, system status, information status, and news, sports or financial status.

22. The portable device of claim 20,
wherein the plural visual indications are grouped based on correspondence of the associated external states.

23. The portable device of claim 20,
wherein the telecommunications network includes one or more of a wireless voice network, a wireless data network, a packet-switched data network, an internet or intranet, a local- or wide-area network and a public switched telecommunications network (PSTN).

24. The portable device of claim 20,
embodied as one or more of a phone, a personal digital assistant, a pager, a palm- or handheld-computer, a digital media player, a communications-enabled portable device and a WAP- or iMode-enabled portable device.

1 25. A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable
2 medium, the computer program product comprising:
3 a first functional sequence executable to establish an association between
4 plural indications on a display of a portable device and respective user-
5 defined external states;
6 a second functional sequence executable to supply via a telecommunications
7 network an information encoding for update of the indications on the
8 display in accordance with the user-defined external states.

1 26. The computer program product of claim 25,
2 wherein execution of the first functional sequence further establishes user-
3 defined operations for monitoring the user-defined external states.

1 27. The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:
2 a third functional sequence executable to monitor of the user-defined external
3 states.

1 28. The computer program product of claim 25,
2 wherein the first and second functional sequences are both executable on a
3 networked information server that accesses one or more data stores in
4 which results of monitoring of the user-defined external states are
5 encoded.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 25,
2 wherein the first functional sequence is embodied at least in part as code
3 implementing a web page accessible from either or both of the portable
4 device and a networked computer.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 25,
2 wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of
3 a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium
4 and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

1 31. An apparatus comprising:
2 means for presenting a visual indication on a display device;
3 means for associating, based on a user selection, the visual indication with a
4 state external to the apparatus; and
5 means for receiving an information encoding corresponding to the external
6 state and for updating the visual indication based thereon.

1 32. The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising:
2 means for ascertaining the external state and for communicating the
3 information encoding corresponding thereto.